

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4392

ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011

CREATION OF GORKHA AND TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION

Bali Ram Dr.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any tripartite agreement has been made between the Union Government, the State Government of West Bengal and the leaders of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha for creation of a separate Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the issues discussed therein alongwith the outcome of the tripartite talks;
- (c) the role of all the three stakeholders in running the administration of new territory;
- (d) whether the Union Government has agreed to provide all assistance to the GTA; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the new Gorkhaland State is likely to be created?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (c) A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed between the Government of India, Government of West Bengal and Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) on 18.7.2011. The main objective of the agreement is to establish an autonomous self-governing body called Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) to administer the region so that the socio-economic, infrastructural, educational, cultural, and linguistic development is expedited, thereby achieving all round development of the people of the region.

The main features of the agreement are as under:

- (i) An autonomous body titled Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) will be constituted in place of Darjeeling Hill Gorkha Council by way of direct election.
 - (ii) There shall be a GTA Sabha for the GTA which shall consist of 45 elected members and 5 members to be nominated by the Governor to give representation to members of SC, ST, women and minority communities. The terms of GTA shall be 5 years.
 - (iii) The power to frame rules/regulations under the State Acts to control, regulate and administer the departments/offices and subjects transferred will be conferred upon the GTA.
 - (iv) The administrative, executive and financial powers in respect of the subjects transferred will be vested in such a way that the new Body may function in an autonomous and effective way.
 - (v) The GTA will have the power of creating Group B, C and O posts with the approval of Governor. The recruitment will be done through a Subordinate Service Selection Board to be set up for this purpose.
 - (vi) Since the formation of new authority will take some time and since the developmental works in the hills, which have already suffered badly, cannot be allowed to suffer further, there will be a Board of Administrators in DGHC which would be fully empowered to exercise all the powers and functions of the Chief Executive Councilor under the DGHC Act, 1988 and to decide on the much needed developmental works in the hills.
 - (vii) The GJM agrees to ensure that peace and normalcy will be maintained in the region.
 - (viii) The Government of West Bengal shall repeal the DGHC Act, 1988 along with formation of GTA to be constituted by an Act of the legislature.
- (d) to (e) As per the agreement, the Government of India will provide financial assistance of Rs 200 crore per annum for 3 years for projects to develop the socio-economic infrastructure in GTA over and above the normal plan assistance to the State of West Bengal.

The agreement has been signed to create an autonomous body called Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) which will be created after repeal of the DGHC Act, 1988 along with formation of GTA to be constituted by an Act of the legislature.

